

Department of Toxic Substances Control



Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary
California Environmental
Protection Agency

Edwin F. Lowry, Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630

Gray Davis
Governor

June 12, 2003

Mr. Bob Fischer
Installation Restoration Program Manager
1605 Third Street, Building 504, Code 45RF
Naval Air Facility El Centro
El Centro, California 92243-5001

DRAFT PROPOSED PLAN/REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN FOR INSTALLATION
RESTORATION (IR) SITE 1, MAGAZINE ROAD LANDFILL, NAVAL AIR FACILITY EL
CENTRO (NAFEC), IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Fischer:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Draft Proposed
Plan/Remedial Action Plan for Site 1. Comments from Ms. Leticia Hernandez, Public
Participation Specialist are enclosed.

We are looking forward to working with you to expedite the remedial activities at
NAFEC. If you have any questions, please contact me at (714) 484-5445 or at
ihirbawi@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Isaac Hirbawi
Hazardous Substances Engineer
Federal Facilities Unit A
Office of Military Facilities
Southern California Region

Enclosure

Cc: See next page.

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption.
For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.*

Mr. Bob Fischer
June 12, 2003
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cc: Mr. Mike Gonzales
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Southwest Division
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San Diego, California 92132-5190

Mr. Jim Hoyle
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1220 Pacific Highway
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Mr. David Virginia
Environmental Specialist 1
California Regional Water Quality
Control Board, Colorado River Basin
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, California 92206

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bcc: Emad B. Yemut, P.E., Unit Chief
Federal Facilities Unit "A"
Office of Military Facilities
Southern California Region



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Agency Secretary
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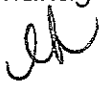
Department of Toxic Substances Control



Gray Davis
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Edwin F. Lowry, Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630

TO: Isaac Hirbawi
Remedial Project Manager

FROM: Leticia Hernandez 
Public Participation Specialist

DATE: June 11, 2003

SUBJECT: **COMMENTS ON DRAFT FACT SHEET FOR NAF EI Centro**

Overall comment. This fact sheet is well-written and presents the information clearly. Also, the type size is large enough to be read easily, and there is good use of white space and other layout features. One small problem is that the use of so many different colors and boxes on the first page is confusing. These graphic elements can be very effective, but need to be used sparingly. I recommend taking the box and shading off the title and Introduction, leaving them unboxed and on white background. Then the two boxes that are left would stand out more.

General Comment about the Public Participation Requirements. Because this is a Proposed Plan/Draft RAP, the Navy is required by state and federal law to hold a public meeting during the 30-day comment period. There is no exception to this requirement, even if the site is low interest and remote. The Navy must also provide a transcript of the meeting, which requires a court reporter.

The suggested revisions to wording include references to a meeting, which will have to be arranged. Also, the meeting information will have to be added to the "Opportunities for Community Involvement."

1. The current wording of the title and Introduction may be hard for some readers to understand since it uses unfamiliar terms (i.e., "Remedial Action Plan" and "Installation Restoration Program"), and does not summarize the general idea. The following is a suggested revision to title and first paragraph that will help the reader more quickly and easily understand the subject matter:

PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED

Navy Proposes Cleanup Actions at Magazine Road Landfill, Naval Air Facility EI Centro

You are invited to review and comment on the Navy's proposal to do further treatment

at a former landfill on Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro, located in Imperial County, California. The proposal is to line the drainage ditch and continue monitoring and other controls to make sure that no chemicals from the landfill waste get into the soil or groundwater. This Proposed Plan/Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) describes the Navy's proposal, the history of the landfill, the results of environmental studies, and the other treatment options considered.

The 30-day public comment period is from **July 1** through **July 31, 2003**. You are also invited to attend a public meeting on _____ to hear more about the proposal and to tell us what you think. Please see the box at the bottom of this page for more details. This is your opportunity to tell us what you think about the proposal. Your comments will be considered and addressed before a final decision is made.

The landfill area, called Site 1, is part of the Navy's Installation Restoration (IR) Program, which searches for, investigates, and cleans up past hazardous waste disposals and spills that happened during previous military operations.

2. Page 1, the Regional Location Map, please zoom in on the El Centro area to show if the base is in close proximity to homes or any nearby community.

3. Figure 4 needs more explanation, i.e., terms like "presumptive remedy" and "potentially complete exposure pathways" are not clear to the lay reader. I recommend either using more general terms and more description, or taking out the figure. The information could be presented more clearly with narrative rather than a flow chart.

4. In the Remedial Investigation section, it is not stated whether the contamination has affected any drinking water supplies. This is usually one of the main concerns of the public. Please add a sentence that explicitly states this so that there will be no uncertainty.

5. Under "Developing Alternatives," second paragraph, the statement about the 2003 amendment to the Feasibility Study is confusing and not really necessary (since it's unlikely that anyone from the public will be comparing the original to the amended FS). I recommend deleting this sentence for simplicity.

6. The CERCLA process flow chart on page 9 is a little confusing in its current layout. It's not immediately clear that the boxes go from left to right, and that the lower part of each box is the description of the term at the top. To clarify, you could take out the tan strip in the middle and put a descriptive title on top such as "Steps in the Cleanup Process at NAF El Centro Site 1." Put a left-to-right directional arrow either over the top or at the left. The current fading of the blue background in each box would work as a way to separate the name of the step from the description.

Also, since this Proposed Plan has "Draft RAP" included in the title, please revise the title on the third box to "Proposed Plan/Draft RAP." In the explanation part of this box, the word "date" should be "data."

These are all my comments. Thank you for the opportunity to review this draft Proposed Plan.

